
Angela Drive Pictures

8581 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste 503

West Hollywood, CA 90069

1-818-590-6030

scottputman@mac.com

June 8, 2011

RE: Michigan Film Incentives

Esteemed Members, House Tax Policy Committee:

I write today because I cannot personally attend and testify as I am in the final weeks of pre-production on a project in Detroit; a project that will employ many hundreds of skilled Michigan film technicians as well as over 1000 on-screen actors and background performers.

As a veteran of shooting in Michigan – the current project is my fifth here since early 2010 – I can state with confidence, Michigan is a great place to shoot a film. The crews are eager and hard working, infrastructure is growing, and the vistas, backgrounds and cityscapes are beautiful.

Filmmaking, however, is an uncertain endeavor. Financing is always tenuous and securing the always elusive “Green Light” to make a picture seems to only be getting more difficult.

Because I love shooting in Michigan, and because Film Makers need as much certainty as absolutely possible, I strongly, strongly urge you fashion any film incentive legislation with clear and un-waivering language. Any ambiguity, any sense that incentive percentages or yearly allocations may ‘slide’ or ‘adjust’ will certainly drive producers to take projects to other states, other locales.

I have been fortunate enough to fill over two passports working all over the world making film and TV entertainment. When friends and colleagues ask about Michigan and Detroit? I have nothing but wonderful things to say. I am grateful for the opportunity to work in your beautiful state with hard-working and dedicated Michiganders.

Michigan has Soul. Michigan is gritty. Michigan is beautiful. Last Fall, when it appeared I could earn my living in this market, my wife and I seriously considered moving our family here, permanently. I would not know the lure of this place had not the film incentives bought me - and my family - to your fine state.

Humbly,

Scott Putman